

The Effects of Climate Conditions on Economic Output: Growth versus Level Effects

By JINCHI DONG, RICHARD S.J. TOL AND JINNAN WANG*

Estimating the effects of climate on economic output is crucial for formulating climate policy, but current empirical findings remain ambiguous. We extend the long-difference model to account for time-invariant factors affecting output growth and utilize global subnational data from over 1,600 regions across 196 countries to generate new estimates. We find a significant effect of temperature on output growth in poor regions and a significant effect of precipitation on output growth in rich regions. Given that poor regions are typically hot and that precipitation consistently has a positive effect on rich regions, it is expected that rich regions become richer while poor regions become poorer, leading to a profound climate inequality in the future.

JEL: O11 Q51 Q54 Q56

Keywords: Climate Damage; Climate impacts; Panel regression; Long-Difference regression; Damage Function

The impact of climate on economic output - whether it affects the level or growth of output - remains widely debated among climate economists (Dell, Jones and Olken, 2012; Burke, Hsiang and Miguel, 2015; Tol, 2018; Kalkuhl and Wenz, 2020; Newell, Prest and Sexton, 2021). Some researchers argue that climate only affects output level (Kalkuhl and Wenz, 2020; Newell, Prest and Sexton, 2021), with output declining during anomalous climate years but rebounding once the climate returns to prevailing conditions (e.g., the effect of temperature on crop yields). Others contend that climate affects the labor supply (Albert, Bustos and Ponticelli, 2021), capital, and labor productivity (Fankhauser and Tol, 2005; Kjellstrom et al., 2009; Hsiang and Jina, 2014; Graff Zivin, Hsiang and Neidell, 2018; Letta and Tol, 2019; Kahn et al., 2021), thereby having persistent effects on output growth. This divergence leads to pronounced differences in the assessment of future climate change damages and the social cost of carbon, resulting in widespread uncertainty about the implementation and effectiveness

* Dong: State Key Laboratory of Pollution Control and Resource Reuse, School of the Environment, Nanjing University, Nanjing, Jiangsu, 210023, China; (dongjinchi@163.com). Tol: Department of Economics, University of Sussex, Falmer, United Kingdom; Institute for Environmental Studies, Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; Department of Spatial Economics, Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; Tinbergen Institute, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; CESifo, Munich, Germany; Payne Institute for Public Policy, Colorado School of Mines, Golden, CO, USA; College of Business, Abu Dhabi University, UAE; (R.Tol@sussex.ac.uk). Wang: State Key Laboratory of Pollution Control and Resource Reuse, School of the Environment, Nanjing University, Nanjing, Jiangsu, 210023, China; Chinese Academy of Environmental Planning, Beijing, 100043, China; (wangjn@caep.org.cn). We thank Dr Shqiponja Telhaj for her helpful comments and discussions.

of climate policies (Moore and Diaz, 2015; Tol, 2018; Tsigaris and Wood, 2019).

Early empirical research on the relationship climate and economic output relied on cross-sectional models (Mendelsohn, Nordhaus and Shaw, 1994; Nordhaus, 2006; Hsiang and Narita, 2012). This approach compares outcomes across cold and hot regions to reveal how currently cool places will change as the climate warms. Although widely used, this approach has been criticized for its vulnerability to omitted variable bias. Any factors correlated with both climate and outcomes but excluded from the model can confound the estimations (Hsiang, 2016; Auffhammer, 2018; Kolstad and Moore, 2020). Given these concerns, later studies employed fixed-effects panel models to explore the relationship between climate and economic outcomes. This approach controls unconsidered time-invariant factors by including individual fixed effects, which provides more reliable estimates compared to cross-sectional approaches. Nonetheless, fixed-effects panel models, which use year-to-year variables, actually capture the short-term effects of weather conditions rather than long-term climate impacts (Hsiang, 2016; Auffhammer, 2018; Kolstad and Moore, 2020). Since it is generally difficult for economies to exhibit adaptive behavior in a short period, the estimates derived from panel models tend to overstate the projected damages from longer-term climate changes (Burke and Emerick, 2016).

More recent literature adopts the long-difference model, as proposed by Burke and Emerick (2016), which fully account for observable adaptation, to provide more plausibly causal estimates of damages. This approach estimates the impact by taking the difference in average weather conditions and outcomes over decades. Since the climate is regarded as the probability distribution of weather, average weather conditions are expected to capture the mean level of climate (Hsiang, 2016; Tol, 2019, 2021). The difference between decades is equivalent to the inclusion of individual fixed effects that avoids potential variables that correlate with both climate and outcome. Therefore, the long-difference model overcomes the drawbacks from both cross-sectional and panel models.

However, the standard long-difference model only eliminates the time-invariant factors relevant to the level of output, while time-invariant factors affecting the growth of output remain (we discuss this further in Section I). Additionally, most existing research focuses on national impacts. Damania, Desbureaux and Zaveri (2020) argue that using aggregated data from larger spatial scales masks the heterogeneity of weather impacts, leading to insignificant results. This is particularly true for precipitation that its distribution is much more heterogeneous across space compared to the temperature (Damania, Desbureaux and Zaveri, 2020). To address this issue, a growing body of literature has started using subnational data for analysis, but the data used has omitted a large number of regions in Africa, Southeast Asia, and Central America (Kalkuhl and Wenz, 2020; Kotz et al., 2021; Kotz, Levermann and Wenz, 2022). These regions are not only hot but also poor. As a result, findings based on inadequate data are expected to underestimate the true impact of climate on economic output (Dong, Tol and Wang, 2023).

To address these challenges, we extend the long-difference model by conducting a second difference to eliminate all possible time-invariant factors. We also use global subnational data with over 1,600 regions from 196 countries to capture nearly all possible climate conditions experienced worldwide. We first conduct a panel regression to replicate previous studies and compare our results with those derived from incomplete data. The specification used in this study is consistent with that used by Kalkuhl and Wenz (2020) that identify the level and growth effects of weather conditions on output separately. Second, we use our extended long-difference model to estimate the long-term effects of climate on economic output. Methodologically this approach extends the standard long-difference model but is also closest to that of Dell, Jones and Olken (2012). Dell, Jones and Olken (2012) uses the accumulated sum of temperature effect to distinguish the level and growth effects of temperature on output. By conducting a second difference in the standard long-difference model, the effect of climate is identified by the accumulated sum of temperature change over two periods. Finally, we incorporate our extended long difference estimates with climate data from 186 global climate emulations to project the percentage change in GDP per capita in 2100 under future 2.0°C global warming scenarios, providing a potential input to climate policy discussions.

By using the panel model, we first find a significant effect of temperature on output growth. The optimal temperature implied by the model is 15°C. This is two degree higher than the results of Burke, Hsiang and Miguel (2015), suggesting a greater adaptation to short-term temperature changes at subnational levels than previously expected. In addition, the effect of temperature is nearly identical in rich and poor regions. 1°C temperature increase at 26°C decreases GDP per capita growth by 1.8% in poor regions and 1.7% in rich regions. This result is consistent with prior studies Burke, Hsiang and Miguel (2015); Mendelsohn, Dinar and Williams (2006). Poor countries exhibit larger responses mainly because they are hotter on average, not because they are poorer. We also find a consistent positive effect of precipitation on output growth when using population-weighted data. This suggests that the majority people in the world are expected to benefit from the increase of precipitation. Overall, our results support the growth effects of weather conditions on economic output rather than level effects.

The results based on the extended long-difference models further support the growth effects of temperature and precipitation on output. The accumulative effect of temperature on output in poor regions remains consistent even after including more lags of temperature change. However, the accumulative effect of temperature on rich regions shrinks to zero. These results suggest a significant growth effect of temperature on output in poor regions, but not in rich regions. In contrast, we find that the accumulative effect of precipitation on output in rich regions is consistent, while this effect shrinks to zero in poor regions. In addition, the growth effect of precipitation remains consistently positive, though the marginal benefit decreases as precipitation increases. These results imply that

rich regions are likely to become richer with increased precipitation, while poor tropical regions are expected to become poorer with rising temperatures.

Due to the data limitation, we take the "long difference" between two periods over an average of six years. As a result, our results reflect the medium-term adaptations to the climate rather than long-term effects. However, the results still provide useful insight into long-term climate change adaptation. The optimal temperature implied by the extended long-difference model is 21°C, considerably higher than that suggested by the panel model. In addition, we find that the medium-term effect of temperature is more pronounced than the short-term effect. 1°C increase at 10°C increase output growth in poor regions by 0.69% in the short term, but it expands to 6.8% in the medium term. For hot regions, although the marginal negative effect of temperature on medium-term output growth also expands, its statistical significant weakens. These results suggest that climate adaptation not only mitigate the negative effect of temperature in hot regions but also enhances the positive effect in cold regions. Regarding precipitation effects in rich regions, we find a significant positive medium-term impact, while the short-term effect is insignificant when using the region-weighted approach, suggesting that more people in rich regions increased their capacity for precipitation adaptation and take advantage of the increase of precipitation.

The projected percentage changes of GDP per capita vary considerably depending on the statistical approach used. The lowest projection is -1.8% when regional impacts are weighted by the inverse of the number of subnational regions, while the highest projection is 16.9% when weighted by regions' population and 9.6% when weighted by baseline GDP per capita. This variation occurs because that most rich regions have higher population and they are also benefit from the increase in precipitation. Weighted by population and baseline GDP per capita, therefore, emphasize the positive effect of precipitation in these regions. If we only consider the effect of temperature, the percentage changes of global average GDP per capita is projected to decrease by 11.8% to 19.4%. Regions in Africa, Southeast of Asia, and Central America, which are relatively poor and hot, are projected to experience substantial declines in GDP per capita. In contrast, regions in North America and North Europe, which are relatively rich, are projected to see increases in GDP per capita due to rising precipitation. Although precipitation in southern Europe is projected to decrease, the damage from the decrease of precipitation is expected to be offset by the benefits of rising temperatures in these colder regions. Therefore, the gap between rich and poor regions is expected to widen significantly in the future.

Our study makes two key contributions to the rapidly growing literature on climate impacts. First, we extend the standard long-difference model by introducing a second difference, which eliminates time-invariant factors affecting both the level and growth of output, thereby providing more rigorous evidence on the long-term effects of climate on economic output. Second, by using subnational data from nearly all countries, our study offers a comprehensive analysis of the

short-term and medium-term effects of temperature and precipitation on economic output, addressing the biases caused by incomplete data. These findings also offer important input for updating damage functions in integrated assessment models used for estimating the social cost of carbon and designing other climate policies.

The remainder of the paper is organized as follows: Section I develops the extended long-difference model and outlines our empirical approach. Section II introduces the data and provides descriptive statistics. Section III presents our main results based on both the panel and extended long-difference models. Section IV discusses climate adaptation based on these estimates and projects percentage changes in GDP per capita using 186 global climate simulations. Section V concludes the paper.

I. Model and Empirical Approach

A. Economic Model

Following the research of Dell, Jones and Olken (2012), We first consider a simple production function to reveal the relationship between weather conditions and output per capita:

$$(1) \quad y_{it} = e^{c_i + \alpha_0 T_{it}^2 + \beta_0 T_{it}} A_{it}$$

Where y_{it} is the GDP per capita in region i and year t . c_i captures individual fixed factors that affect the level of output. Following current empirical findings (Burke, Hsiang and Miguel, 2015; Kalkuhl and Wenz, 2020), we consider a non-linearity effects of weather conditions T_{it} on GDP per capita. A_{it} measures labor productivity. Current literature suggests that weather conditions affect output growth by influencing the growth of productivity. Therefore, we have:

$$(2) \quad \Delta \ln(A_{it}) = g_i + \gamma_0 T_{it}^2 + \delta_0 T_{it}$$

Where g_i captures individual fixed factors that affect productivity growth. Taking the logarithm of equation (1) and differencing with respect to time, we derive the growth equation:

$$(3) \quad g_{it} = \ln(y_{it}) - \ln(y_{it-1}) = g_i + \alpha_0 \Delta T_{it} T_{it} + \alpha_0 \Delta T_{it} T_{it-1} + \beta_0 \Delta T_{it} + \Delta \ln(A_{it})$$

Substituting equation (2) into (3) yields:

$$(4) \quad g_{it} = g_i + \alpha_0 \Delta T_{it} T_{it} + \alpha_0 \Delta T_{it} T_{it-1} + \beta_0 \Delta T_{it} + \gamma_0 T_{it}^2 + \delta_0 T_{it}$$

Equation (4) is the standard panel model used to separately identify the level and growth effects of weather conditions on output, as proposed by Kalkuhl and Wenz (2020). To obtain the mean level of climate, we average weather conditions

and GDP per capita over multiple years. The relationship between the logarithm of average output per capita and climate, based on equation (1), is given by:

$$(5) \quad \ln(\overline{y_{ip}}) = c_i + \alpha_0 \overline{T_{ip}^2} + \beta_0 \overline{T_{ip}} + \ln(\overline{A_{ip}})$$

For a specific period p , equation (5) serves as the standard cross-section model for assessing climate impacts. It is clear that c_i could be uncontrolled factors that bias results. To eliminate c_i , we take the difference of equation (5) over two periods:

$$(6) \quad \begin{aligned} \overline{g_{ip_n}} = & \ln(\overline{y_{ip}}) - \ln(\overline{y_{ip-n}}) = (c_i - c_i) + \\ & \alpha_0 (\overline{T_{ip}^2} - \overline{T_{ip-n}^2}) + \beta_0 (\overline{T_{ip}} - \overline{T_{ip-n}}) + (\ln(\overline{A_{ip}}) - \ln(\overline{A_{ip-n}})) \end{aligned}$$

We consider n period differences to capture long-term effect of climate. $\overline{g_{ip_n}}$ is the intertemporal output growth. Equation (6) is the standard long-difference model, where time-invariant factors relevant to the output level c_i are eliminated through the first difference. However, the model may still yield biased estimates as time-invariant factors $\overline{g_i}$ affecting productivity growth $\overline{A_{ip}}$ remain:

$$(7) \quad \begin{aligned} \ln(\overline{A_{ip}}) - \ln(\overline{A_{ip-n}}) &= \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \Delta \ln(\overline{A_{ip-j}}) \\ &= (n-1)\overline{g_i} + \gamma_0 \overline{T_{ip}^2} + \cdots + \gamma_0 \overline{T_{ip-n+1}^2} + \delta_0 \overline{T_{ip}} + \cdots + \delta_0 \overline{T_{ip-n+1}} \end{aligned}$$

To eliminate $\overline{g_i}$, we conduct a second difference for the standard long-difference model:

$$(8) \quad \begin{aligned} \overline{g_{ip_n}} - \overline{g_{ip_n-n}} &= (n-1)(\overline{g_i} - \overline{g_i}) + \\ & \alpha_0 \Delta \overline{T_{ip_n}^2} - \alpha_0 \Delta \overline{T_{ip_n-n}^2} + \beta_0 \Delta \overline{T_{ip_n}} - \beta_0 \Delta \overline{T_{ip_n-n}} + \\ & \gamma_0 (\overline{T_{ip}^2} - \overline{T_{ip-n}^2}) + \cdots + \gamma_0 (\overline{T_{ip-n+1}^2} - \overline{T_{ip-2n+1}^2}) + \\ & \delta_0 (\overline{T_{ip}} - \overline{T_{ip-n}}) + \cdots + \delta_0 (\overline{T_{ip-n+1}} - \overline{T_{ip-2n+1}}) \end{aligned}$$

Equation (8) shows that all time-invariant factors related to climate and output eliminated after two differences. The estimates based on the equation (9), thus, are more robust than those from the standard long-difference model. Rewriting equation (8) yields:

$$(9) \quad \begin{aligned} \Delta \overline{g_{ip_n}} = & \overline{g_{ip_n}} - \overline{g_{ip_n-n}} = \\ & (\alpha_0 + \gamma_0) \Delta \overline{T_{ip_n}^2} - \alpha_0 \Delta \overline{T_{ip_n-n}^2} + \gamma_0 \Delta \overline{T_{ip_n-1}^2} + \cdots + \gamma_0 \Delta \overline{T_{ip_n-n+1}^2} + \\ & (\beta_0 + \delta_0) \Delta \overline{T_{ip_n}} - \beta_0 \Delta \overline{T_{ip_n-n}} + \delta_0 \Delta \overline{T_{ip_n-1}} + \cdots + \delta_0 \Delta \overline{T_{ip_n-n+1}} + \end{aligned}$$

Where $\Delta\overline{g_{ip_n}}$ and $\Delta\overline{T_{ip_n}}$ are the differences in intertemporal output growth and average climate over n period. For a two-period difference, i.e. $n = 2$, equation (9) simplifies to:

$$(10) \quad \begin{aligned} \Delta\overline{g_{ip}} = \overline{g_{ip}} - \overline{g_{ip-2}} = \\ (\alpha_0 + \gamma_0)\Delta\overline{T_{ip}^2} + \gamma_0\Delta\overline{T_{ip-1}^2} - \alpha_0\Delta\overline{T_{ip-2}^2} + \\ (\beta_0 + \delta_0)\Delta\overline{T_{ip}} + \delta_0\Delta\overline{T_{ip-1}} - \beta_0\Delta\overline{T_{ip-2}} \end{aligned}$$

We omit the n notation for clarity. This is the simplest model to determine the climate effects as it requires a minimal number of lag terms. Instead of increasing the difference period n , we can obtain long-term estimates by averaging weather and outcomes over more years, which is able to effectively increases the temporal gap between two periods. The equation (10) suggests contemporaneous change in climate ($\Delta\overline{T_{ip}^2}$ and $\Delta\overline{T_{ip}}$) captures the sum of level and growth effects, with first and second lag terms capturing the growth effects and the level effects respectively.

However, the equations (1) and (2) only consider contemporaneous effects of climate conditions on output level and growth. It is not difficult to consider the potential lagged effects of climate on output. For instance, the death of a worker at the end of the year might not affect that year's output but would likely reduce output in the following year. Similarly, a drought could decrease crop yield in the current year and also in the next year due to lingering poor soil conditions. This effect can persist over longer periods.

Appendix I provides a generalization of the extended long-difference model based on a general dynamic growth equation with longer lag structures, following the derivation in Dell, Jones and Olken (2012). If we consider l lags of climate effects, the two period difference of intertemporal output per capita growth is given by:

$$(11) \quad \begin{aligned} \Delta\overline{g_{ip}} = \overline{g_{ip}} - \overline{g_{ip-2}} = \\ (\alpha_0 + \gamma_0)\Delta\overline{T_{ip}^2} + (\alpha_1 + \gamma_0 + \gamma_1)\Delta\overline{T_{ip-1}^2} + \cdots + \\ (\alpha_l + \gamma_{l-1} + \gamma_l - \alpha_{l-2})\Delta\overline{T_{ip-l}^2} + (\gamma_l - \alpha_{l-1})\Delta\overline{T_{ip-l-1}^2} - \alpha_l\Delta\overline{T_{ip-l-2}^2} + \\ (\beta_0 + \delta_0)\Delta\overline{T_{ip}} + (\beta_1 + \delta_0 + \delta_1)\Delta\overline{T_{ip-1}} + \cdots + \\ (\beta_l + \delta_{l-1} + \delta_l - \beta_{l-2})\Delta\overline{T_{ip-l}} + (\delta_l - \beta_{l-1})\Delta\overline{T_{ip-l-1}} - \beta_l\Delta\overline{T_{ip-l-2}} \end{aligned}$$

Where l is the number of lag effects of climate considered. Equation(11) indicates that the second lag term of climate change variable captures the sum of level and growth effects.

Equation (11) also allows for separate identification of level and growth effects on output. The sum of all coefficients of quadratic terms equals $\gamma_0 + \gamma_0 + \gamma_1 + \cdots + \gamma_{l-1} + \gamma_l + \gamma_l = 2(\gamma_0 + \gamma_1 + \cdots + \gamma_l)$. Similarly, the sum of all coefficients of linear terms equals $\delta_0 + \delta_0 + \delta_1 + \cdots + \delta_{l-1} + \delta_l + \delta_l = 2(\delta_0 + \delta_1 + \cdots + \delta_l)$.

These cumulative sums provide insights into the effects of climate:

- 1) *Primarily Level Effects*: If the accumulated sums of all coefficients for both quadratic and linear terms equal zero, and one of the contemporaneous or lag terms' coefficient is significant, this suggests that the climate effects are primarily level effects without growth effects.
- 2) *Contemporaneous Growth Effect Only*: If the coefficient of contemporaneous terms ($\Delta \overline{T_{ip}^2}$ and $\Delta \overline{T_{ip}}$) is indistinguishable from the coefficient of first lag terms ($\Delta \overline{T_{ip-1}^2}$ and $\Delta \overline{T_{ip-1}}$), and the half of summed coefficients is also indistinguishable from them, this suggests contemporaneous growth effect only.
- 3) *Combination of Contemporaneous and Lagged Growth Effects*: If the half of summed coefficients is indistinguishable from the coefficients of first lag terms ($\Delta \overline{T_{ip-1}^2}$ and $\Delta \overline{T_{ip-1}}$), this indicates a combination of contemporaneous and one-lagged growth effects ($\gamma_0 + \gamma_1$, and $\delta_0 + \delta_1$) without lagged level effects. However, it would be challenging to determine whether contemporaneous level effects exist.
- 4) *Combination of Lagged Growth and Level Effects*: Other scenarios would suggest a combination of lagged growth and level effects.

B. Empirical Model

A potential drawback of the cross-sectional long-difference model is that estimates may be biased if within-country, time-varying factors are correlated with both climate and output (Burke and Emerick, 2016). To address this concern, we construct a panel of extended long-differences that include several periods for the variables of interest. Building on equation (11), we consider the following specification for regression:

$$(12) \quad \Delta g_{ip} = \sum_{j=0}^L \rho_j \Delta \mathbf{T}_{ip-j}^2 + \sum_{j=0}^L \sigma_j \Delta \mathbf{T}_{ip-j} + \eta_i + \theta_p + \epsilon_{ip}$$

Where Δg_{ip} is the difference between the intertemporal output per capita growth in region i and period p and that from two periods ago. We first calculate three-year average of output per capita and take the logarithm to obtain $\ln(\overline{y_{ip}})$. Then we difference $\ln(\overline{y_{ip}})$ in period p and the value two period ago $p - 2$ to get the intertemporal output growth g_{ip} . Specifically, we compute average output for the years 1992-1994, 1995-1997, ..., and 2013-2015. We then perform the first difference by subtracting the average output between 1992-1994 and 1998-2000, ..., and between 2007-2009 and 2013-2015. Finally, we calculate the second difference for the change of average output in period p and period $p - 2$. Although data limitations prevent us from averaging variables over more extended periods, the

three-year averages and two-period differences (resulting in six-year gaps with nine years considered) still enable us to capture medium-term effects of climate change over nearly a decade, while also providing sufficient observations for regression analysis.

$\mathbf{T}_{i,p} = (T_{ip}, P_{i,p})$ is a vector of average annual mean temperature (in $^{\circ}C$) and average annual total precipitation (in m) over three years with up to L lags included. $\Delta\mathbf{T}_{ip}$ is the difference between average temperature and precipitation in period p and period $p - 2$. η_i is the region fixed effect, which controls for any unobserved subnational level effects. θ_p is the period fixed effect to control unobserved, spatially invariant medium term shock factors, such as the alternating El Niño and La Niña events that cycle every 2-7 years. ϵ_{ip} is the error term clustered at country level as suggested by Cameron and Miller (2015) and MacKinnon, Nielsen and Webb (2023). This clustering level also consistent with the approach used by Kalkuhl and Wenz (2020).

Given that we are estimating non-linear models, we also calculate the marginal effects of equation (12) at each point of $\mathbf{T}_{i,p}$ to determine the climate effects. In particular, as the the model without lagged effects in equation (10), the marginal effect on Δg_{ip} at a specific average climate conditions \mathbf{T}^* is $\hat{\tau}_1 = (\hat{\rho}_0 + \hat{\rho}_1 + \hat{\rho}_2)\mathbf{T}^* + (\hat{\sigma}_0 + \hat{\sigma}_1 + \hat{\sigma}_2)/2$. The advantage of this approach is that it avoids separately summing up the linear and quadratic terms to identify the climate effects.

Due to varying definitions of subnational regions across countries, some countries have more granular subnational divisions, while others have coarser ones. For instance, Brazil and Italy have the same number of subnational regions, but Brazil's area is 28 times that of Italy. Using subnational data directly might, therefore, emphasize the climate change responses of countries with more subnational divisions. To address this issue, we employ two strategies: First, we use the inverse of the number of subnational regions in a country as a weight in the regression. The interpretation of these results reflects the effects of climate on a country's average economic output, which allows us to compare our results with those from other studies based on country-level data. Second, we use the population of subnational regions as a weight in the regression. The interpretation of these results reflects the effect of climate on a person's average economic output or income. These strategies ensure that our findings are robust and comparable across different contexts.

II. Data and Descriptive Statistics

A. Data

The temperature and precipitation data for this study are derived from the CRU database (<https://crudata.uea.ac.uk/cru/data/hrg/>). This database provides a global high-resolution ($0.5^{\circ} \times 0.5^{\circ}$ resolution) monthly grid of land-based observations dating back to 1901. The data is developed based on station observa-

tions, with the grid data obtained using angular-distance weighting interpolation. This CRU database also implements a degree of homogenization and shows no substantial discrepancies with other climate databases. It is widely used in the literature (Kalkuhl and Wenz, 2020; Song, Wang and Zhao, 2023; Malpede and Percoco, 2024), allowing for the comparison of our results with findings from other studies.

To process the data, We first determine whether a grid’s centroid falls within a region’s boundaries. The monthly grid data is then aggregated to the subnational level using area weights to obtain regions’ monthly average temperature and monthly total precipitation. These monthly observations are finally aggregated by averaging (for temperature) or summing (summing) to obtain the annual mean temperature and weighted annual total precipitation values.

Gross domestic product per capita (2011 PPP) data is obtained from (Kummu, Taka and Guillaume, 2018). The database was initially collected by (Gennaioli et al., 2013) based on various government statistical agencies. It includes GDP data for 1569 subnational regions across 110 countries between 1990 and 2010, covering most countries in Central and South Africa - regions that are poorly covered by other subnational GDP databases. (Kummu, Taka and Guillaume, 2018) extended the time series of this database from 2010 to 2015 and filled in missing countries based on national GDP data. Overall, the database developed by (Kummu, Taka and Guillaume, 2018) covers global subnational GDP data from 1990 to 2015 with no missing areas.

The population data used for weighting is derived from Liu et al. (2024), who developed the first available annual continuous global gridded population database from 1990 to 2020 using a data fusion framework based on five widely used population data products. To obtain regions’ population, we first determine the grid’s centroid, and then sum up the gridded data into subnational level if the grid’s centroid falls within a region.

B. Descriptive Statistics

Table 1 summarizes the subnational data used in this study. Our sample includes 1,666 regions from 196 countries, covering almost all countries and populations globally. The global average GDP per capita from 1990 to 2015 is \$11315. This is roughly equivalent to the average GDP per capita of Algeria and Thailand. Qatar has the highest average GDP per capita (\$104617), while Somalia has the lowest (\$607). The global average subnational temperature is 18.64°C if weighted by regions, while the population-weighted temperature is 18.96°C. This slight increase of population-weighted temperature indicates that people tend to live in warmer regions. People also tend to live in wetter regions, but the difference between average region-weighted precipitation (1.12m) and average population-weighted precipitation (1.11m) is relatively small.

Figure 1 shows the average temperature (Panel A), precipitation (Panel B), GDP per capita (Panel C), and GDP per capita growth rate (Panel D) over time.

All these variables exhibit increasing trends starting from 1990. On average, the global temperature increased by 0.50°C, precipitation increased by 46 mm, GDP per capita increased by \$6168, and the GDP per capita growth rate increased by 2.7% when comparing the average values from 1990-1994 to those from 2011-2015.

These increasing trends indicate an underlying non-stationary process, which may result in spurious results when using cross-sectional or panel models. However, by taking the first difference of temperature and precipitation and the second difference of GDP per capita-the variables used in our main regression, all of them show a stationary process in figure trends (Figure S1). Appendix II provides more robust unit root tests, which confirm that all variables in the main regression models used in this study are stationary.

TABLE 1—SUMMARY STATISTIC

Variable		Mean	SD	Min	Max	Obs.	Regions	Countries	Year
GDP per capita (region-weighted)	y_{it}	14857	19081	177	459271.4				
GDP per capita (population-weighted)	y_{it}	11315	14141						
Annual mean temperature(°C) (region-weighted)	T_{it}	18.64	8.14	-19.76	29.71	43316	1666	196	1990-2015
Annual mean temperature(°C) (population-weighted)	T_{it}	18.96	7.39						
Annual total precipitation(m) (region-weighted)	P_{it}	1.12	0.77	0.00027	6.31				
Annual total precipitation(m) (population-weighted)	P_{it}	1.11	0.66						

III. Empirical results

A. short-term effects of weather conditions

We first conduct a panel regression to assess the short-term effects of weather conditions on output. These results allow us to identify the degree of adaptation to long-term climate change by comparing them with the extended long-difference results. The panel model is developed based on equation (4). We ignore the lag term of $\alpha_0 \Delta T_{it} T_{it-1}$ to provide a parsimonious model, which still allows us to capture the level and growth effects of weather conditions separately. The specific regression model is as follows:

$$(13) \quad g_{it} = \alpha_0 \Delta \mathbf{T}_{it} \mathbf{T}_{it} + \beta_0 \Delta \mathbf{T}_{it} + \gamma_0 \mathbf{T}_{it}^2 + \delta_0 \mathbf{T}_{it} + \eta_i + \theta_t + h_i(t) + \epsilon_{it}$$

Where Δg_{it} is the annual GDP per capita growth in region i and year t . $\mathbf{T}_{i,t} = (T_{it}, P_{i,t})$ is a vector of annual mean temperature (in °C) and annual total precipitation (in m). η_i and θ_t are the country fixed effect and year fixed effect. We also consider the quadratic region-specific time trends fixed effect $h_i(t) =$

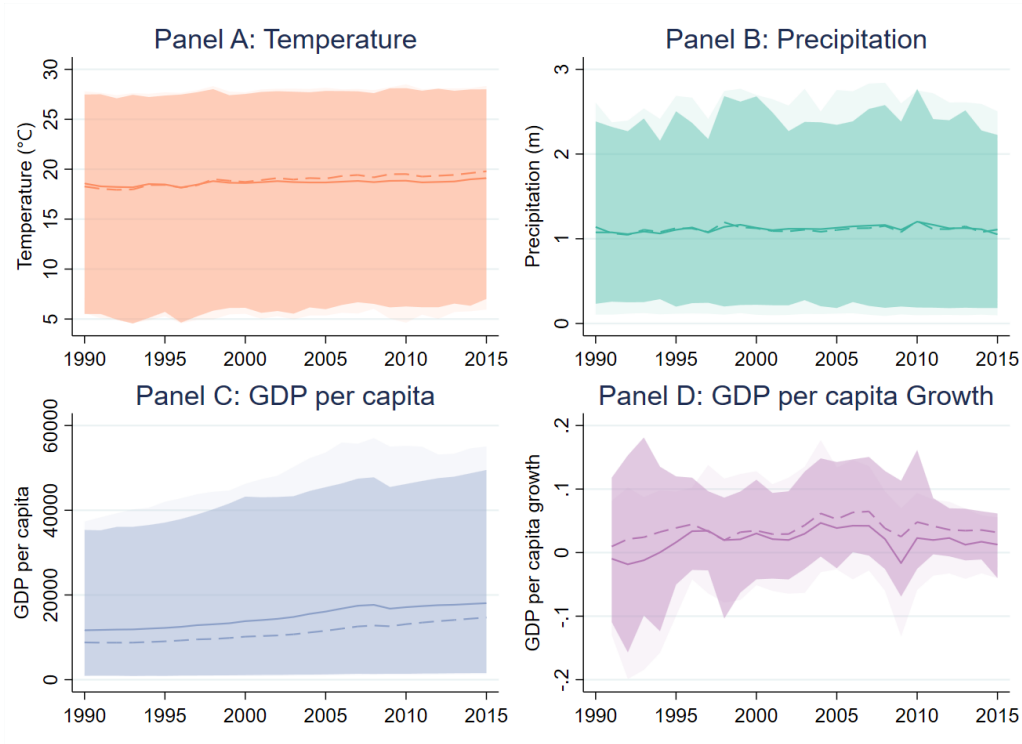


FIGURE 1. CHANGES IN TEMPERATURE, PRECIPITATION AND GDP PER CAPITA FROM 1990 TO 2015.

Note: Figure 1 shows the global average temperature, precipitation, GDP per capita and GDP per capita growth from 1990 to 2015. The solid lines represent the region-weighted average data. The dash lines represent the pop-weighted average data. Dark shadows represent the fifth to ninety-fifth percentile of region-weighted data. Light shadows represent the fifth to ninety-fifth percentile of pop-weighted data.

$\lambda_{i1}^2 + \lambda_{i2}$ to control gradual changes in individual regions' growth rates driven by slowly changing factors.

The results of the panel regression are presented in Table 2. Columns (1) and (2) show the results based on region-weighted data, whereas columns (3) and (4) are based on population-weighted data. Columns (1) and (3) provide the results based on the model developed by Burke, Hsiang and Miguel (2015), which only includes the quadratic function to analyze the aggregate effects (sum of both level and growth effects) of weather conditions. Column (1) shows a significant effects of temperature on GDP per capita, while the effects of precipitation is insignificant. These results are consistent with Burke, Hsiang and Miguel (2015). However, when we use the population-weighted data for the regression, the results shows a significant effect of precipitation, but the significance of the effect of temperature becomes weaker. The optimal precipitation implied by the column (3) is 2.1 m, which is higher than 90% regions' average precipitation, suggesting a consistently positive effect of precipitation on most regions' output.

The difference between the results in column (1) and (3) may be due to the population-weighted results emphasize the responses of regions with higher populations. Due to the higher high domestic and industrial water demand, development in these regions is primarily constrained by precipitation (e.g., the east of China). Therefore, the increase in precipitation consistently has a positive effect in these regions. In contrast, regions with lower populations have lower water demand, thus, changes in precipitation have limited impact on their output. In addition, the concentration of people enables them to better cope with temperature changes (e.g. cities have more air conditioning than rural areas). Therefore, the effect of temperature in column (3) is less significant than in column (1).

The columns (2) and (4) represents the results based on the equation (13), which estimates the level and growth effects of weather conditions separately. The results suggest that the temperature effect identified in column (1) is mostly attributable to its effect on output growth. The level effect of temperature in column (1) is insignificant, but the effect of temperature on output growth is significant. In addition, the optimal temperature implied by column (2) is 14.5°C, which is lower than the optimal temperature of 15.8°C implied by the column (1). This may be due to the positive trend of temperature on the level of output, as coefficient of $\Delta T \cdot T$ in column (2) is positive. Since the coefficients in column (1) capture the aggregated effect of temperature, the model developed by Burke, Hsiang and Miguel (2015) may underestimate the growth effect of temperature on output. Column (4) also shows a significant effect of temperature on output growth. The optimal temperature implied by the column (4) is 12°C, which is substantially lower than that implied by column (2), but its significance and marginal effect are weaker than those based on region-weighted estimates in column (2). No matter which weighting method is used, the current global average temperature already exceeds the optimal temperature, indicating that further increases in global temperatures is expected to reduce the short-term growth of global GDP per capita.

Looking for the precipitation, the effect of precipitation on output growth in column(2) and (4) are both insignificant, but we find a significant effect of precipitation on the level of output in column (4). This, to some extent, explains the significant effect of precipitation in column (3). However, the statistical significance is also weak. This may because the heterogeneous effect of precipitation at different levels. Therefore, further analysis of marginal effects at difference precipitation conditions is needed.

Figure 2 shows the marginal effects of temperature and precipitation on output growth from columns (2) and (4) in table 2. Table 3 further presents the marginal effects of temperature and precipitation at the 25%, mean, and 75% subpoint values. Panel A and Panel B show the marginal effect of temperature on output. The marginal level effect of temperature is consistently insignificant no matter which weighting method is used. The marginal effect of temperature on output growth is also insignificant if weighted by population. However, we find

TABLE 2—PANEL REGRESSION RESULTS

Dep. var.	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	Annual GDP per capita growth			
ΔT		-0.00588 (0.0047)		-0.000756 (0.0030)
$\Delta T \cdot T$		0.000507 (0.0003)		0.000211 (0.0002)
ΔP		-0.00288 (0.0096)		0.0174 (0.0128)
$\Delta P \cdot P$		-0.000998 (0.0040)		-0.0126** (0.0059)
T	0.0175*** (0.0067)	0.0226** (0.0096)	0.00630* (0.0038)	0.00563 (0.0038)
T^2	-0.000554*** (0.0002)	-0.000774*** (0.0003)	-0.000183* (0.0001)	-0.000233** (0.0001)
P	0.0134 (0.0096)	0.0169 (0.0148)	0.0290** (0.0137)	0.0118 (0.0113)
P^2	-0.00448* (0.0025)	-0.00405 (0.0036)	-0.00694** (0.0032)	-0.000316 (0.0027)
Obs.	41650	41650	41650	41650
R^2	0.214	0.215	0.327	0.328
Region FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Region-specific time trend FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Weight	Region	Region	Pop.	Pop.

Note: Standard errors clustered at country level are in parentheses. ***p < 0.01, **p < 0.05, *p < 0.10

a significant marginal growth effects of temperature in both cold and hot regions. 1 °C increase in temperature is expected to increase GDP per capita growth by 1.5% in regions with an average temperature of 5°C and reduce GDP per capita growth by 1.8% at 26°C.

Regarding the marginal effects of precipitation, Panel C and Panel D show that the marginal effects of precipitation on both level and growth of output are consistent insignificant across all precipitation levels if weighted by regions. In contrast, there is a significant negative marginal level effect of precipitation at extreme wet regions. 100 mm increase in precipitation decrease GDP per capita growth by 0.1% in regions with an average precipitation of 2.2m (90% percentile in our sample). However, the effect of precipitation on output growth is consistent significant and positive, especially for wetter regions. 100 mm increase

in precipitation is expected to increase GDP per capita growth by 0.1%. This result suggests that although regions with larger populations are vulnerable to the short-term changes in precipitation, they have adequate capacity to adapt to these changes, leading to long-term increases in output growth. However, changes in precipitation are quite heterogeneous across the world. While North Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia is expected to experience an increase in precipitation, Southern Europe, Central America and Southeast Asia will experience a decrease in precipitation (IPCC et al., 2021). In this case, the decrease in precipitation in these regions is expected to decrease their GDP per capita growth. Therefore, apart from floods, we also need to pay attention to the possible increase in the frequency of droughts.

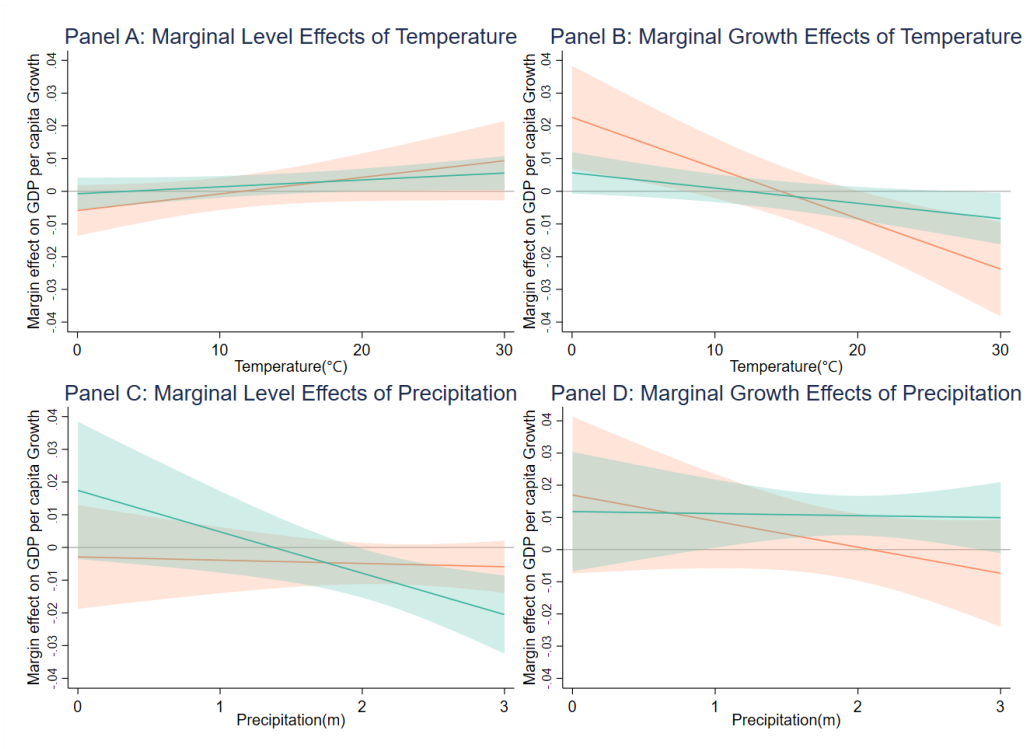


FIGURE 2. MARGINAL EFFECTS OF TEMPERATURE, PRECIPITATION ON OUTPUT

Note: Figure 2 shows the marginal effects of temperature on GDP per capita growth (top), and marginal effects of precipitation on GDP per capita growth (bottom). The orange line represents the estimates based on region-weighted regression. The green line represents the estimates based on population-weighted regression. The shadow areas represent the 90% confidence interval.

TABLE 3—MARGINAL EFFECTS OF PANEL REGRESSION RESULTS

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	Level effect			Growth effect		
Panel A: Area-weighted Panel data						
Temperature	11°C	19°C	26°C	11°C	19°C	26°C
	-0.000301	0.00376	0.00730	0.00558	-0.00680	-0.0176**
	(0.0030)	(0.0042)	(0.0061)	(0.0053)	(0.0049)	(0.0071)
Precipitation	0.5m	1.1m	1.6m	0.5m	1.1m	1.6m
	-0.00338	-0.00398	-0.00448	0.0129	0.00803	0.00397
	(0.0078)	(0.0058)	(0.0045)	(0.012)	(0.0084)	(0.0066)
Panel B: Population-weighted Panel data						
Temperature	13°C	19°C	26°C	13°C	19°C	26°C
	0.00199	0.00325	0.00473*	-0.000424	-0.00322	-0.00648
	(0.0019)	(0.0020)	(0.0026)	(0.0025)	(0.0030)	(0.0040)
Precipitation	0.6m	1.1m	1.5m	0.6m	1.1m	1.5m
	0.00985	0.00352	-0.00154	0.0114	0.0111*	0.0109***
	(0.0096)	(0.0071)	(0.0055)	(0.0083)	(0.0060)	(0.0045)

Note: Standard errors clustered at country level are in parentheses. ***p < 0.01, **p < 0.05, *p < 0.10

B. Medium-term effects of climate

Table 4 presents the cumulative effect results from estimating equation (12), considering no lags, one lag and two lags of climate effects on output. Appendix II provides complete regression results with all lag terms. Comparing results from models, adding more lag terms substantially increases the R^2 , specifically in the two-lags model, where R^2 increases from 0.341 to 0.499, and 0.409 to 0.583 compared to the one-lag model¹. This suggests that climate effects on output may persist over two lags. Therefore, we consider the models in columns (3) and (6) as our preferred models. However, the uncertainty in the cumulative effect also increases with more lags are included as additional uncertain parameters are added. Therefore, compare to the statistical significance of cumulative effects, we prefer to focus on the changes of cumulative effects. If the cumulative effects are stable across models, this indicates the presence of growth effects. If the cumulative effects eventually shrinks to 0, and the first or second term is significant, this indicates the significant level effects.

As columns (1) to (3) shows, the summed coefficients of temperature remains fairly stable as more lagged effects of temperature are considered. This result, therefore, suggest a growth effects of climate on output. The optimal temperature implied by column (3) is roughly 19°C, substantially higher than that implied by panel regression. In contrast, columns (4) to (6), which based on population

¹The R^2 -adjusted for no-lags, one-lag and two-lags models are 0.088, 0.117, 0.244 for region-weighted regression, and they are 0.141, 0.210, 0.371 for population-weighted regression.

weighting, show decrease trends of the summed coefficients, and the magnitude of the summed coefficient of ΔT^2 almost equal to zero. This suggests the limited effect of temperature on output growth in large population regions, consistent with findings from the panel regression.

Looking for the precipitation effects, the cumulative effect of precipitation on output growth increases as more lagged effects considered (columns (1) to (3)). This suggests: 1) contemporaneous and lagged effects of precipitation on output growth, the summed coefficients is creased with more lagged growth effects are considered. or 2) the growth effects combined with the persistent level effects of precipitation, which is opposite to the growth effects, the summed coefficients is increase by diminish the level effects². No matter which possibilities, the columns (1) to (3) suggest the exists of growth effect of precipitation. For the cumulative effect of precipitation based on population weighting, while the summed coefficients is stable between column (4) and (5), they are decreased substantially in column (6), suggesting the limited growth effect of precipitation in large population regions.

Overall, the results in table 4 suggest a potential growth effect of temperature and precipitation when using region weighting method. However, these effects are insignificant when using population weighting method, implying that larger population regions have higher adaptation to medium-term climate change.

C. Heterogeneity

Table 4 highlights the growth effects of temperature and precipitation when using region weighting method. However, all of the statistical significance of these effect is weak. This could due to the increased uncertainty by including too many lag variables, but it may also stem from the heterogeneous adaptation between rich and poor regions, as suggested by previous studies. To explore this further, this section conducts a heterogeneity analysis to examine the differential impacts of climate on output in rich versus poor regions. We first calculate each region's average GDP per capita over periods, and divide them to be "rich" and "poor" based on region or population-weighted median value. Regions with average GDP per capita above the median are classified as "rich," while those below are classified as "poor."

We then interact temperature and precipitation with a dummy variable indicating whether a region is poor in the two-lags model³. Table 5 (Temperature

²Recalling equation (11), if we consider two lag effects of climate on output, the equation (11) simplifies to: $\Delta \bar{g}_{ip} = (\alpha_0 + \gamma_0)\Delta \bar{T}^2 ip + (\alpha_1 + \gamma_0 + \gamma_1)\Delta \bar{T}^2 ip - 1 + (\alpha_2 + \gamma_1 + \gamma_2 - \alpha_0)\Delta \bar{T}^2 ip - 2 + (\gamma_2 - \alpha_1)\Delta \bar{T}^2 ip - 3 - \alpha_2\Delta \bar{T}^2 ip - 4 + (\beta_0 + \delta_0)\Delta \bar{T}_{ip} + (\beta_1 + \delta_0 + \delta_1)\Delta \bar{T}_{ip-1} + (\beta_2 + \delta_1 + \delta_2 - \beta_0)\Delta \bar{T}_{ip-2} + (\delta_2 - \beta_1)\Delta \bar{T}_{ip-3} - \beta_2\Delta \bar{T}_{ip-4}$. the sum of coefficients of first three quadratic terms is: $2(\gamma_0 + \gamma_1) + \gamma_2 + \alpha_1 + \alpha_2$. Therefore, the estimates of cumulative effect are biased by the lagged level effects. However, the level effect will diminish in the growth estimates with more lag terms included

³The dummy variable equals 0 for poor regions and 1 for rich regions. The coefficients of the quadratic and linear terms for temperature or precipitation capture the nonlinear effect of climate on output in poor regions, while the interaction terms capture the heterogeneity between poor and rich regions. The

TABLE 4—EXTEND LONG-DIFFERENCE RESULTS

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	No lags	1 lag	2 lags	No lags	1 lag	2 lags
ΔT^2	-0.00666*** (0.0017)	-0.00503** (0.0021)	-0.00535** (0.0024)	-0.00152 (0.0011)	-0.00325** (0.0015)	-0.00364*** (0.0009)
$L1 : \Delta T^2$	-0.00558*** (0.0016)	-0.00423*** (0.0016)	-0.00237 (0.0020)	-0.00373*** (0.0010)	-0.00158* (0.0009)	-0.000437 (0.0013)
ΔT	0.229*** (0.0558)	0.126* (0.0740)	0.175* (0.0946)	-0.000468 (0.0555)	0.0482 (0.0609)	0.0877*** (0.0395)
$L1 : \Delta T$	0.203*** (0.0597)	0.101* (0.0522)	0.0138 (0.0615)	0.0974*** (0.0305)	0.0198 (0.0521)	0.0190 (0.0631)
Sum of all coeff. of ΔT^2	-0.0148*** (0.00297)	-0.0157*** (0.00553)	-0.0137* (0.00821)	-0.00455* (0.00260)	-0.00446 (0.00365)	-0.000161 (0.0052)
Sum of all coeff. of ΔT	0.518*** (0.122)	0.443** (0.204)	0.525 (0.343)	0.0322 (0.111)	0.0302 (0.137)	0.0603 (0.177)
ΔP^2	-0.0668 (0.0530)	-0.115** (0.0565)	-0.106** (0.0433)	-0.187*** (0.0380)	-0.145*** (0.0412)	-0.0978** (0.0424)
$L1 : \Delta P^2$	-0.0326 (0.0294)	-0.0851 (0.0567)	-0.126* (0.0694)	-0.0550 (0.0456)	-0.0911** (0.0379)	-0.0755 (0.0539)
ΔP	0.215 (0.2286)	0.356 (0.2636)	0.371* (0.1974)	0.604*** (0.1363)	0.558*** (0.1410)	0.358** (0.1504)
$L1 : \Delta P$	0.0790 (0.1390)	0.212 (0.2480)	0.469 (0.2855)	0.147 (0.1475)	0.244* (0.1377)	0.256 (0.1824)
Sum of all coeff. of ΔP^2	-0.163 (0.114)	-0.335* (0.176)	-0.382 (0.240)	-0.390*** (0.109)	-0.390*** (0.139)	-0.104 (0.228)
Sum of all coeff. of ΔP	0.461 (0.485)	0.806 (0.782)	1.26 (0.970)	1.14*** (0.326)	1.14** (0.461)	0.318 (0.728)
Obs.	8330	6664	4998	8330	6664	4998
R^2	0.273	0.341	0.499	0.314	0.410	0.583
Region FE	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Year FE	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Weight	Region	Region	Region	Pop.	Pop.	Pop.

Note: Standard errors clustered at country level are in parentheses. ***p < 0.01, **p < 0.05, *p < 0.10

effects) and Table 6 (Precipitation effects) summarize the cumulative effects of climate on output weighted by region(column (1) to (3)) and weighted by population (column (4) to (6)) across poor and rich regions. Appendix II provides complete regression results with all variables.

Column (1) to (3) in table 5 show that the summed coefficients of temperature in poor regions remains stable and significant, providing rigorous evidence of the growth effects of temperature in poor regions. The optimal temperature implied by column (3) is 19°C, which is considerably higher than the value implied by panel regression, indicating potential adaptation to medium-term temperature

nonlinear effect of climate on output in rich regions is therefore calculated by summing the coefficients of the quadratic and linear terms with the coefficients of the interaction terms.

changes. For the level effect, since the summed coefficients remains stable across the models, this suggest there is no lagged effects or they are quite small that can be ignored. In this case, the two-lag terms $L2 : \Delta T^2$ and $L2 : \Delta T$ capture the level effect, which is $0.00649T^2 - 0.216T$. Another method to calculate the level effect is using the half of summed coefficients minus contemporaneous terms, which is $0.00507T^2 - 0.206T$. These two results are almost equal, suggesting the robust of the results.

In contrast, the summed coefficients of temperature continue to decrease as more lagged effects are considered in rich regions. This suggests a limited growth effect of temperature in rich regions. If there is no growth effect, the contemporaneous and lag terms in column (3) are expected to capture the level effects of temperature⁴. However, all the coefficients for rich regions are insignificant in column (3). These results suggest that there is no growth and level effect of temperature on rich regions' output. In other words, people in rich regions have higher adaptability to medium-change temperature change compared to the poor regions.

The summed coefficients in column (4) to (6) shows a increase trends for poor regions. However, compared to the summed coefficients in column (3), they are substantially lower, and they are also insignificant. In contrast, we find a positive growth effect of temperature for rich regions as the summed coefficient of quadratic in column (4) to (6) keeps increase, and its statistical significance also increase. This implies that the increase in the temperature benefit to the output in rich regions with lager population. However, due to the potential lagged effects of temperature as suggested by the increasing trends of summed coefficients, it is challenge to determine the level effect of temperature in such rich regions.

Table 6 presents the effects of precipitation on output. Column (1) to (3) show that the summed coefficients of precipitation decrease and are close to zero for poor regions. In addition, the contemporaneous and lag terms of precipitation are also insignificant across models. These results suggest there is a lack of significant effects of precipitation on both the level and growth of output in poor regions. In contrast, we find an increasing trend in the summed coefficients for rich regions, with their statistical significance also increasing. This suggests a growth effect of precipitation in rich regions. The optimal precipitation suggested in column (3) is 2.1 m, which is higher than average precipitation in most regions. This result suggests that although the marginal benefit decreases, an increase in precipitation is expected to continue benefiting regions' output growth, except in extremely wet regions. However, as mentioned in the panel regression section, some regions,

⁴Recalling equation (11), if we consider two lag effects of climate on output, the equation (11) simplifies to: $\Delta \bar{g}_{ip} = (\alpha_0 + \gamma_0)\Delta \bar{T}^2 ip + (\alpha_1 + \gamma_0 + \gamma_1)\Delta \bar{T}^2 ip - 1 + (\alpha_2 + \gamma_1 + \gamma_2 - \alpha_0)\Delta \bar{T}^2 ip - 2 + (\gamma_2 - \alpha_1)\Delta \bar{T}^2 ip - 3 - \alpha_2\Delta \bar{T}^2 ip - 4 + (\beta_0 + \delta_0)\Delta \bar{T}_{ip} + (\beta_1 + \delta_0 + \delta_1)\Delta \bar{T}_{ip-1} + (\beta_2 + \delta_1 + \delta_2 - \beta_0)\Delta \bar{T}_{ip-2} + (\delta_2 - \beta_1)\Delta \bar{T}_{ip-3} - \beta_2\Delta \bar{T}_{ip-4}$. If there is no growth effect, this equation can be further simplified to: $\Delta \bar{g}_{ip} = \alpha_0\Delta \bar{T}^2 ip + \alpha_1\Delta \bar{T}^2 ip - 1 + (\alpha_2 - \alpha_0)\Delta \bar{T}^2 ip - 2 - \alpha_1\Delta \bar{T}^2 ip - 3 - \alpha_2\Delta \bar{T}^2 ip - 4 + \beta_0\Delta \bar{T}_{ip} + \beta_1\Delta \bar{T}_{ip-1} + (\beta_2 - \beta_0)\Delta \bar{T}_{ip-2} - \beta_1\Delta \bar{T}_{ip-3} - \beta_2\Delta \bar{T}_{ip-4}$.

TABLE 5—EXTENDED LONG-DIFFERENCE RESULTS BETWEEN POOR AND RICH REGIONS

	(1) No lags	(2) 1 lag	(3) 2 lags	(4) No lags	(5) 1 lag	(6) 2 lags
$\Delta T^2 \times \text{poor}$	-0.00844*** (0.00294)	-0.00562* (0.00339)	-0.00648** (0.00259)	-0.00105 (0.0015)	0.0000575 (0.0021)	-0.00239 (0.0017)
$L1 : \Delta T^2 \times \text{poor}$	-0.00985*** (0.00342)	-0.00715*** (0.0023)	-0.0029 (0.00273)	-0.00556*** (0.0014)	-0.00292*** (0.0009)	-0.000147 (0.0020)
$\Delta T \times \text{poor}$	0.320*** (0.119)	0.165 (0.135)	0.242*** (0.0935)	-0.124 (0.076)	-0.132 (0.091)	0.0188 (0.068)
$L1 : \Delta T \times \text{poor}$	0.317*** (0.122)	0.145** (0.0666)	-0.00132 (0.0741)	0.135** (0.0554)	0.0703 (0.0483)	0.0294 (0.0808)
Sum of coeff. of ΔT^2 in poor	-0.0218*** (0.00436)	-0.0234*** (0.00752)	-0.0231*** (0.00889)	-0.00467 (0.00339)	-0.00430 (0.00393)	-0.00573 (0.0072)
Sum of coeff. of ΔT in poor	0.762*** (0.176)	0.669** (0.281)	0.896*** (0.313)	-0.211 (0.144)	0.0817 (0.182)	0.263 (0.215)
$\Delta T^2 \times \text{rich}$	-0.00577*** (0.00198)	-0.00357 (0.00243)	-0.00474 (0.00366)	0.000322 (0.0016)	-0.000528 (0.0028)	0.00231 (0.0032)
$L1 : \Delta T^2 \times \text{rich}$	-0.00297* (0.00157)	-0.00154 (0.00248)	-0.000145 (0.00334)	-0.000660 (0.0011)	0.00178 (0.0020)	0.00349 (0.0036)
$\Delta T \times \text{rich}$	0.177*** (0.0541)	0.0902 (0.0737)	0.137 (0.113)	0.0278 (0.046)	0.0485 (0.083)	0.00780 (0.096)
$L1 : \Delta T \times \text{rich}$	0.125** (0.0614)	0.0482 (0.0693)	-0.0139 (0.0891)	0.0526 (0.0347)	-0.0684 (0.0520)	-0.0951 (0.1029)
Sum of coeff. of ΔT^2 in rich	-0.0107*** (0.00365)	-0.00866 (0.00691)	-0.00435 (0.0127)	0.00102 (0.00269)	0.00076 (0.00802)	0.0224** (0.0113)
Sum of coeff. of ΔT in rich	0.353** (0.139)	0.254 (0.224)	0.276 (0.46)	0.00104 (0.096)	-0.0862 (0.200)	-0.490 (0.319)
Obs.	8330	6664	4998	8330	6664	4998
R^2	0.280	0.352	0.511	0.325	0.430	0.611
Region FE	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Year FE	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Weight	Region	Region	Region	Pop.	Pop.	Pop.

Note: Standard errors clustered at country level are in parentheses. ***p < 0.01, **p < 0.05, *p < 0.10

including rich countries in southern Europe, are expected to experience a decrease in precipitation. Therefore, the medium-term GDP per capita growth in these regions is also expected to decrease due to the decreased precipitation.

Looking at the effect of precipitation on output in column (4) to (6), the summed coefficients of precipitation for poor regions keep decreasing and are close to zero. This suggests a limited growth effect of precipitation in large population regions. However, the significance of contemporaneous terms suggests a level effect of precipitation. The optimal precipitation implied by this level effect is 1.75m, suggesting a positive level effect of precipitation on most regions' output. For the effects of precipitation in rich regions, although the summed co-

efficient in column (6) are not close to zero, they are decreased substantially from column (4) to column (6). The magnitude and significance are also lower than those in column (3). These results, at least, suggest that the rich regions with larger populations are less sensitive to the precipitation than other rich regions.

TABLE 6—EXTENDED LONG-DIFFERENCE RESULTS BETWEEN POOR AND RICH REGIONS (CONTINUED)

	(1) No lags	(2) 1 lag	(3) 2 lags	(4) No lags	(5) 1 lag	(6) 2 lags
$\Delta P^2 \times \text{Poor}$	-0.0663 (0.0638)	-0.0625 (0.0664)	0.00244 (0.0595)	-0.208*** (0.0394)	-0.140*** (0.0369)	-0.126** (0.0462)
$L1 : \Delta P^2 \times \text{Poor}$	-0.0324 (0.0311)	-0.0504 (0.0759)	-0.0745 (0.115)	-0.0514 (0.0496)	-0.104* (0.0444)	-0.0666 (0.0653)
$\Delta P \times \text{Poor}$	0.264 (0.272)	0.153 (0.299)	-0.0256 (0.257)	0.712*** (0.146)	0.619** (0.139)	0.441*** (0.160)
$L1 : \Delta P \times \text{Poor}$	0.0253 (0.144)	0.00916 (0.297)	0.171 (0.405)	0.146 (0.168)	0.331* (0.174)	0.352 (0.300)
Sum of coeff. of ΔP^2 in Poor	-0.143 (0.125)	-0.198 (0.237)	-0.0301 (0.423)	-0.403*** (0.125)	-0.410** (0.158)	-0.0864 (0.306)
Sum of coeff. of ΔP in Poor	0.317 (0.532)	0.0476 (0.995)	-0.42 (1.500)	1.21*** (0.410)	1.10** (0.439)	0.540 (1.17)
$\Delta P^2 \times \text{Rich}$	-0.0634 (0.078)	-0.148* (0.0845)	-0.171*** (0.0647)	-0.120** (0.0525)	-0.169** (0.0820)	-0.0862 (0.0661)
$L1 : \Delta P^2 \times \text{Rich}$	-0.0273 (0.0506)	-0.0926 (0.0687)	-0.134* (0.0736)	-0.0544 (0.0489)	-0.0762 (0.0642)	-0.138* (0.0827)
$\Delta P \times \text{Rich}$	0.157 (0.339)	0.485 (0.408)	0.573* (0.297)	0.323 (0.208)	0.535 (0.309)	0.219 (0.280)
$L1 : \Delta P \times \text{Rich}$	0.133 (0.247)	0.323 (0.361)	0.639* (0.38)	0.0893 (0.170)	0.185 (0.227)	0.395 (0.268)
Sum of coeff. of ΔP^2 in Rich	-0.178 (0.187)	-0.42* (0.232)	-0.516** (0.252)	-0.303** (0.133)	-0.397* (0.206)	-0.244 (0.202)
Sum of coeff. of ΔP in Rich	0.63 (0.801)	1.43 (1.15)	2.25* (1.21)	0.805* (0.466)	1.11 (0.695)	0.757 (0.809)
Obs.	8330	6664	4998	8330	6664	4998
R^2	0.280	0.352	0.511	0.321	0.428	0.612
Region FE	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Year FE	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Weight	Region	Region	Region	Pop.	Pop.	Pop.

Note: Standard errors clustered at country level are in parentheses. ***p < 0.01, **p < 0.05, *p < 0.10

We use the two-lag model from column (3) in Tables 5 and 6 to analyze the marginal effects of temperature and precipitation on output growth. This estimate treats all regions equally, rather than focusing on heavily populated areas, and the results are more robust compared to those in column (6), considering potential lagged effects. Figure 4 illustrates the marginal effects of temperature on output growth in poor regions, as well as the marginal effects of precipitation on output growth in rich regions. Other effects are either absent or difficult to estimate (i.e. the level effects).

As Figure 4 shows, 1°C increase in temperature significantly increases GDP per capita growth between two periods by 21.7% in poor regions with an average temperature of 10°C. Since we use three-year average data, this marginal estimate at 10°C implies that 1°C temperature rise increases annual GDP per capita growth by approximately 6.8%⁵. The current average temperature between 2013-2015 in poor regions is 21.5°C, with over 30% poor regions' average temperature above the optimal temperature (19°C). Although the result in Figure 4 suggests that the negative effect of high temperatures is insignificant, the increase in temperature at least implies that the beneficial effects are no longer present in more poor regions.

For the marginal precipitation effect, the current average precipitation in rich regions is 1.0m, a further increase of 100mm in precipitation increase GDP per capita growth between two periods by 6.1% (approximately 2.0% annually). For Spain, Portugal, and Italy, which located in the southern Europe, rich, and expected to experience precipitation decrease, the average precipitation is 700mm. 100mm decrease in precipitation in these countries is expected to reduce their average annual GDP per capita growth by 0.71%, a significant impact given their average annual GDP per capita growth rate of 2.5% from 2013 to 2015⁶.

D. Robustness checks

Alternative Specifications.- Table 7 presents the cumulative effects of temperature and precipitation on output growth based on the two-lag model with different fixed effects. Columns (1) and (4) use country and year fixed effects. Columns (2) and (5) are similar to columns (1) and (4) but further add subnational region fixed effects. Columns (3) and (6) are similar to columns (2) and (5) but use Poor×Year fixed effects rather than Year fixed effects. We find that if we only control for country and year fixed effects, the cumulative effects of both temperature and precipitation on output growth are smaller than those in our main specification results as shown in tables 5 and 6. However, the variations in temperature, precipitation, and output are more pronounced within countries. Relying solely on country fixed effects may underestimates the effect of climate on output growth. When we further include subnational fixed effects, as in columns

⁵ $\sqrt[3]{1 + 0.217} - 1 \approx 0.068$

⁶ According to IPCC AR6 (IPCC et al., 2021), precipitation is expected to decrease by 10% to 20% (70mm to 140mm) in southern Europe under 2°C global warming scenario.

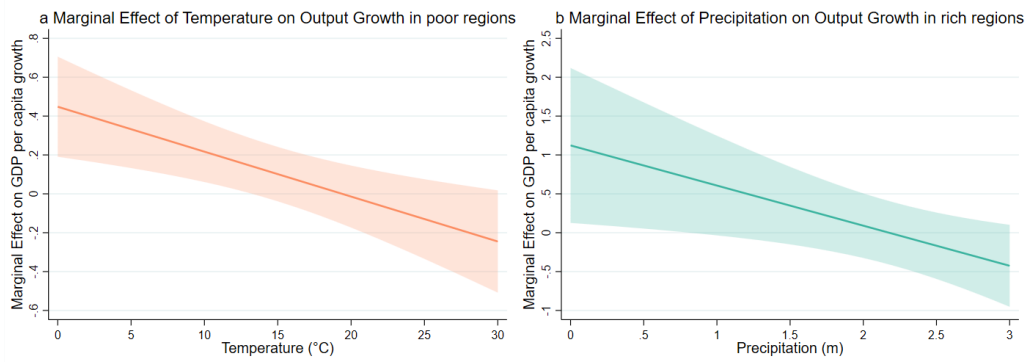


FIGURE 3. MARGINAL EFFECTS OF TEMPERATURE, PRECIPITATION ON OUTPUT GROWTH IN POOR, RICH REGIONS

Note: This figure shows the marginal effects of temperature on GDP per capita growth in poor regions (left), and marginal effects of precipitation on GDP per capita growth in rich regions (right) based on the column (3) in table 5 and table 6. The shadow areas represent the 90% confidence interval.

(2) and (5), the results are almost identical to our main specification results. This indicates that the country-level variation is fully captured by subnational fixed effects. Thus, using subnational fixed effects alone is sufficient to control for time-invariant factors at both country and subnational levels. The results also broadly consistent with our main specification results when we additionally consider the $\text{Poor} \times \text{Year}$ fixed effects.

Bootstrap estimates- As mentioned in empirical results section, the statistical significance may be decreased due to more lags are included. To address this, we employ the bootstrap method as an alternative approach to estimate the cumulative effects. Specifically, we drew 1,000 samples of countries with replacement to quantify the uncertainty of the marginal effects. For each bootstrap iteration, we first categorize the observations into poor and rich regions using the same method described in the heterogeneity section. Then, we use the two-lag extended long-difference model based on region weighting to estimate the marginal effects. The results are depicted in figure 4, with whiskers representing 95% confidence intervals. As the figure shows, both the marginal effects of temperature and precipitation are significant at low levels. The marginal effect of temperature at 10°C is 0.225, whereas the marginal effect of precipitation at 1m is 0.645 (significant at 10%). These are almost identical to the point estimates in figure 3, where the marginal effect of temperature at 10°C is 0.217, and the marginal effect of precipitation at 1m is 0.61. This consistency suggests the robustness of our findings.

Climate variation effects.- An addition to the impacts of annual average temperature and precipitation, a growing body of literature has identified significant effects of intra-annual variations in temperature and precipitation on economic

TABLE 7—ALTERNATIVE SPECIFICATIONS OF EXTEND LONG-DIFFERENCE RESULTS

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	2 lags	2 lags	2 lags	2 lags	2 lags	2 lags
Sum of coeff. of ΔT^2 in Poor	-0.0154**	-0.0231***	-0.0235**	-0.0000253	-0.00573	-0.00822
	(0.00629)	(0.00889)	(0.00921)	(0.00392)	(0.00721)	(0.00699)
Sum of coeff. of ΔT in Poor	0.587**	0.896***	0.928***	-0.0542	0.263	0.173
	(0.233)	(0.313)	(0.326)	(0.131)	(0.215)	(0.200)
Sum of coeff. of ΔT^2 in Rich	-0.00877	-0.00435	-0.00618	0.0163**	0.0225**	0.0202*
	(0.00842)	(0.0127)	(0.0129)	(0.00664)	(0.0113)	(0.0112)
Sum of coeff. of ΔT in Rich	0.343	0.276	0.249	-0.439***	-0.490	-0.345
	(0.281)	(0.46)	(0.46)	(0.133)	(0.319)	(0.300)
Sum of coeff. of ΔP^2 in Poor	0.0185	-0.0301	-0.0342	-0.0658	-0.0864	-0.122
	(0.138)	(0.423)	(0.419)	(0.124)	(0.306)	(0.313)
Sum of coeff. of ΔP in Poor	-0.291	-0.42	-0.41	0.325	0.540	0.515
	(0.658)	(1.5)	(1.47)	(0.661)	(1.17)	(1.17)
Sum of coeff. of ΔP^2 in Rich	-0.322**	-0.516**	-0.453**	-0.172**	-0.244	-0.279
	(0.141)	(0.252)	(0.234)	(0.0700)	(0.202)	(0.196)
Sum of coeff. of ΔP in Rich	1.28*	2.25*	2.05*	0.738**	0.757	0.959
	(0.694)	(1.21)	(1.16)	(0.372)	(0.809)	(0.761)
Obs.	4998	4998	4998	4998	4998	4998
R^2	0.408	0.511	0.513	0.350	0.612	0.615
Fixed effects	Cty,Yr	Cty,Reg,Yr	Cty,Reg,Poor-Yr	Cty,Yr	Cty,Reg,Yr	Cty,Reg,Poor-Yr
Weight	Region	Region	Region	Pop.	Pop.	Pop.

Note: Standard errors clustered at country level are in parentheses. ***p < 0.01, **p < 0.05, *p < 0.10

output. To control these effects, we extend the vector \mathbf{T}_{ip} in our regression model (equation (12)) from (T_{ip}, P_{ip}) to $(T_{ip}, P_{ip}, AST_{ip}, ASP_{ip})$. The annual temperature variability AST_{it} and precipitation variability ASP_{it} are measured by Anomaly Standardized Temperature and Anomaly Standardized Precipitation, respectively. They are defined as the annual sum of monthly temperature or rainfall anomalies from their climatological means, which is proposed by Lyon and Barnston (2005). They measure the deviation of temperature or precipitation in a specific month of a given year from the long-term average of temperature and precipitation for that month. Both indicators follow a normal distribution with a mean of 0, where higher values of AST_{it} or ASP_{it} (>0) suggest the potential occurrence of heatwaves or floods, while lower values of AST_{it} or ASP_{it} (<0) indicate the likelihood of cold snaps or droughts. Appendix provide the illustration of these metrics in details.

Table SX presents the regression results considering both annual average temperature and precipitation, as well as the intra-annual temperature and precipitation variations. We find that the cumulative effect of annual temperature in poor regions remains significant when using region-weighted two-lag model (Column (3)

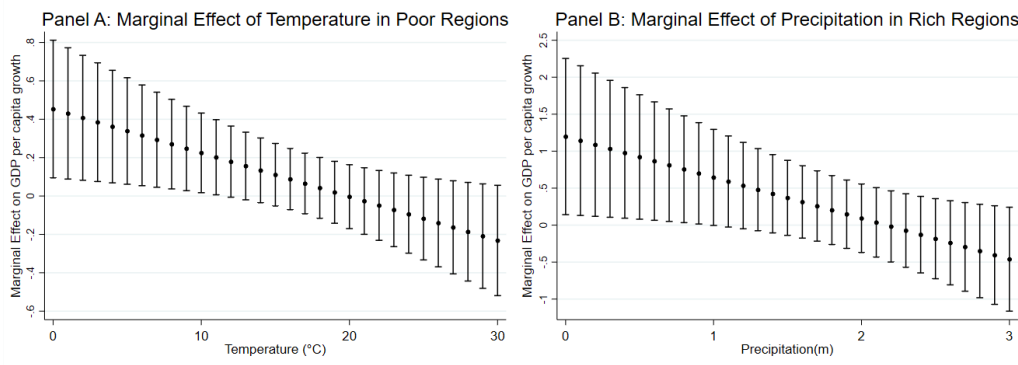


FIGURE 4. BOOTSTRAPPED ESTIMATES OF MARGINAL EFFECTS OF TEMPERATURE, PRECIPITATION ON OUTPUT GROWTH

Note: Figure 4 shows the bootstrapped estimates of marginal effects of temperature on GDP per capita growth in rich regions (left) and the bootstrapped estimates of marginal effects of precipitation on GDP per capita growth in poor regions (right). Dots are the mean values of the 1000 bootstrapped estimates. The whiskers represent 95 percent confidence intervals.

in Table SX). Including variability factors slightly increases the magnitude of the marginal effect. 1°C increase in temperature increase GDP per capita growth between two periods by 23.2% in poor regions with an average temperature of 10°C, 1.5% higher than the result based on our main specification as depicted in figure 3. The summed coefficients of precipitation also stable and broadly consistent with the results in column (3) of table 6, but the standard errors increased, as one might expect given the doubled independent variables included in the regressions.

Looking for the effects of temperature and precipitation variations on output growth in table 8, most of the summed coefficients are stable or have increased in absolute value after accounting for more lagged effects. However, all of them lack statistical significance. Focusing on the region-weighted results in Column 3, we observe positive trends in the effect of temperature variation on output growth in both poor and rich regions, as the summed coefficients of quadratic terms are positive and have increased. Additionally, precipitation variation appears to have a limited impact on output growth in poor regions, while it shows a negative growth effect in rich regions, with the summed coefficients being negative and increasing in absolute value.

IV. Adaptation and Future damage

A. Adaptation

Table SX presents the short-term effects of weather conditions on output in poor and rich regions, based on the panel model in equation (13). We find that the effect of temperature on output growth is nearly identical in both rich and

TABLE 8—EFFECTS OF CLIMATE VARIATIONS ON OUTPUT GROWTH IN RICH AND POOR REGIONS

	(1) No lags	(2) 1 lag	(3) 2 lags	(4) No lags	(5) 1 lag	(6) 2 lags
Sum of coeff. of ΔAST^2 in poor	0.0169 (0.0125)	0.0437** (0.0171)	0.0422 (0.0313)	-0.0298** (0.0137)	-0.00238 (0.0336)	-0.00369 (0.0518)
Sum of coeff. of ΔAST in poor	0.0431 (0.0278)	0.0408 (0.0467)	-0.00905 (0.092)	0.125*** (0.0304)	0.120*** (0.0398)	0.126 (0.153)
Sum of coeff. of ΔAST^2 in rich	0.008 (0.0242)	0.0372 (0.035)	0.0486 (0.0498)	-0.00115 (0.0252)	0.0143 (0.0412)	0.0046 (0.053)
Sum of coeff. of ΔAST in rich	0.00993 (0.0667)	0.0852 (0.101)	0.159 (0.158)	0.0316 (0.058)	0.134 (0.103)	0.0879 (0.177)
Sum of coeff. of ΔASP^2 in poor	0.0635*** (0.018)	0.0457* (0.0259)	0.0173 (0.0531)	0.0438** (0.0208)	0.0636* (0.034)	0.00492 (0.0551)
Sum of coeff. of ΔASP in poor	-0.00974 (0.0545)	-0.0503 (0.109)	-0.143 (0.143)	0.0259 (0.0523)	0.0511 (0.0701)	-0.0129 (0.112)
Sum of coeff. of ΔASP^2 in rich	0.0125 (0.0382)	-0.00515 (0.0616)	-0.0832 (0.0827)	0.00871 (0.0265)	-0.039 (0.0488)	-0.0455 (0.0703)
Sum of coeff. of ΔASP in rich	-0.00215 (0.0667)	-0.0997 (0.107)	-0.106 (0.16)	0.133** (0.0657)	0.262*** (0.0926)	0.157 (0.125)
Obs.	8330	6664	4998	8330	6664	4998
R^2	0.300	0.381	0.545	0.358	0.455	0.635
Region FE	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Year FE	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Weight	Region	Region	Region	Pop.	Pop.	Pop.

Note: Standard errors clustered at country level are in parentheses. ***p < 0.01, **p < 0.05, *p < 0.10

poor regions, consistent with previous studies (Burke, Hsiang and Miguel, 2015; Mendelsohn, Dinar and Williams, 2006). This suggests that the vulnerability of poor countries to weather conditions is primarily due to higher temperatures rather than their economic status. 1°C temperature increase at 26°C decreases GDP per capita growth by 1.8% in poor regions and 1.7% in rich regions. In contrast, although the extended long-difference model also suggests a significant effect of temperature on output growth in poor regions, the effect of temperature in rich regions is insignificant. This disparity between short-term and medium-term effects indicates that rich regions are better adapted to mitigate the substantial short-term negative impacts of temperature, while poor region lack of

such adaptations.

Figure 5 shows the marginal effect of temperature on output growth in poor regions based on the panel model from column 2 in table SX and the extended long- difference model from column (3) in table 6. We convert the marginal growth effect between periods to an annual average marginal growth effect using $\sqrt[3]{1 + \hat{\tau}} - 1$, where $\hat{\tau}$ represents the marginal estimates based on the extended long-difference model. We find that the effect of temperature on poor regions intensifies over time. The positive medium-term effect of temperature is approximately 5 to 10 times greater than the short-term effect for low temperature levels. 1°C increase at 10°C increase short-term output growth by 0.69%, but this expands to 6.8% for medium-term output growth. This suggest that poor regions with low temperature levels develop adaptations from short-term to medium-term, thereby increasing the benefits of temperature increases.

To quantify the uncertainty of the adaptation estimate, we bootstrap our data 1000 times and calculate the ratio of short-term to medium-term marginal effects of temperature $((\sum^l (2 \times \rho_l T^* + \sigma_l)) / (2 \times \gamma T^* + \delta))$ for each iteration ⁷, as suggested by Burke and Emerick (2016). Panel B in figure 5 shows the bootstrap results. We find that the confidence intervals are above zero at low temperature levels, suggesting significant adaptation to the temperature change in poor regions. For temperature above 20°C, although there is a trend suggesting that medium-term negative effects are higher than short-term effects, all confidence intervals span zero, suggesting that the increase in temperature do not significantly heighten medium-term damage in poor regions.

For adaptation to precipitation, we find no significant short-term growth effects in either rich or poor regions (column x in Table SX). However the extended long difference model shows a significant non-linear effect that medium-term output growth in almost all regions benefits from increased precipitation. This suggests that rich regions have developed adaptations to capitalize on increased precipitation.

B. Future Damage

In this section, we project output losses under a future 2.0°C global warming scenario, based on the results from the extended long-difference and panel regression models. We consider the shared socioeconomic pathway of sustainability (SSP1) scenario as the future baseline population and GDP growth trajectory, and the SSP1-26 scenario as the future global warming tendency, as the SSP1-26 scenario's global warming projections are most consistent with the 2.0°C global warming target considered by latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports (IPCC et al., 2021). We also consider a probabilistic framework to account for uncertainty in the historical relationship between temperature and economic growth, as well as the spatial pattern of future mean annual temper-

⁷The bootstrap method used here is the same as that in robustness checks section

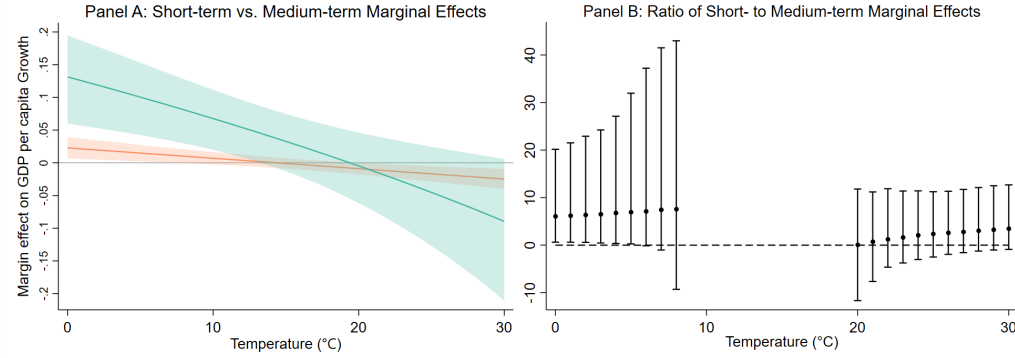


FIGURE 5. SHORT-TERM AND MEDIUM-TERM MARGINAL EFFECTS OF TEMPERATURE IN POOR REGIONS

Note: Figure 5 shows the short-term and medium-term marginal effects of temperature in poor regions (left), as well as the ratio between them (right). The orange line represents the short-term marginal effect, whereas the green line represents the medium-term marginal effect. The shadow areas represent the 90% confidence interval and the whiskers represent the fifth to ninety-fifth percentile. The ratios between 9°C to 19°C are omitted due to the extreme values generated when the short-term effect close to zero.

ature change associated with a given level of aggregate emissions, as suggested by Burke, Davis and Diffenbaugh (2018). In particular, we use the bootstrapped estimates from figure 5 to account for the first set of probabilities. The second set comes from using SSP1-26 future global climate data, which includes 186 global climate simulations from 13 Earth system models from the sixth phase of the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP6). In this case, there are 186,000 possible output losses in total based on permutations of bootstrapped estimates and climate emulations.

For each bootstrap run b and climate emulation c , GDP per capita y in each future year $t + 1$ for region i is projected using the following equation:

$$(14) \quad y_{it+1}^{bc} = y_{it}^{bc} \times (1 + \lambda_{it+1} + \phi_{it+1}^{bc})$$

Where λ_{it+1} is the baseline GDP per capita growth projected by the GDP and population data corresponding to the SSP1 scenario. $\phi_{it+1}^{bc} = g^b(\mathbf{T}_{it+1}^c) - g^b(\mathbf{T}_{i0}^c)$ is the additional estimated change in the GDP per capita growth g due to the projected temperature or precipitation increase above baseline climate \mathbf{T}_{i0} . $g^b(\mathbf{T}_{it+1}^c)$ is estimated based on the extended long difference model or panel model for each bootstrap run b and climate emulation c . The percentage change in GDP per capita is calculated by: $y_{it+1}^{bc}/y_{it}^{bc} - 1$, where y_{it} is the baseline GDP per capita under the SSP1 scenario.

In practice, we randomly draw 1000 samples from bootstrapped estimates and climate emulations to calculate the percentage change in GDP per capita⁸. For

⁸The complete sampling approach ensures a thorough sampling of the full uncertainty space but also

each iteration, we first calculate the average of temperature or precipitation from 2015 to 2017 for each emulation as the baseline climate condition. Then, GDP per capita is calculated year by year for each region. For projections based on extended long-difference estimates, regions in current year are categorized as rich or poor based on whether their projected GDP per capita in last year exceeds the historical global median. The temperature effect estimate is applied to rich regions, while the precipitation effect estimate is applied to poor regions. We also use a three-year moving average for temperature and precipitation to match the values used in the extended long-difference regression. For projections based on panel estimates, the same categorization is used, but ϕ_{it+1}^{bc} is calculated based only on the temperature impact.

The projected GDP per capita changes based on our extended long difference and panel models are given in Table 9 and shown graphically in Figure 6. According to the extended long-difference model, global average GDP per capita is projected to decrease by 11.8% to 19.4% due to temperature changes, compared to a scenario with no additional climate change from 2015 to 2017 onward. This is lower than the panel estimate, which projects a decrease of 16.0% to 22.9%. This is because that the temperature impact based on extended long difference estimate only act on poor regions, while the the panel estimates affect on both poor and region regions. This explains the largest difference between column (3) and (6), which are the GDP per capita weighted projected, than other weighted projections. In contrast, the change in precipitation is projected to increase global average GDP per capita by 6.8% to 23.5%. This result suggests that potential decreases in precipitation have a limited impact on global economic output.

Considering both temperature and precipitation impacts, the projected changes in global average GDP per capita vary significantly depending on the statistical approach used. The global average GDP per capita is projected to decrease by 1.8% when weighted by subnational regions but is projected to increase by 9.6% to 16.9% when weighted by population or baseline GDP per capita. These findings suggest that although many regions are expected to experience a decline in GDP per capita, most populations and rich regions are expected to see increases. This implies that the gap between rich and poor regions will widen further, with rich regions benefiting from increased precipitation and poor regions suffering from rising temperatures.

Figure 7 illustrates the percentage change in GDP per capita for each region. In some rich countries, like Canada and northern European nations, the effects of temperature on them are limited, but the increased precipitation is expected to boost their economic output, leading to an considerable increased GDP per capita. Other rich countries, such as the United States and Australia, may see stable GDP per capita due to consistent precipitation levels. In contrast, most

quickly lead to computer memory issues. Alternatively, we draw varies samples from 100 to 1500 and the results show that the distribution of the uncertainty has been stable after 1000 samples, see Figure X in appendix for sampling results

TABLE 9—PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN GDP PER CAPITA IN 2100 FOR SSP1-126 SCENARIO

	Extended long difference estimates			Panel estimate		
	(1) region weighted	(2) population weighted	(3) GDPpc weighted	(4) region weighted	(5) population weighted	(6) GDPpc weighted
Change in GDP per capita from temperature (%)	-19.4	-16.0	-11.8	-22.9	-17.2	-16.0
Change in GDP per capita from precipitation (%)	6.8	23.5	10.2			
Change in GDP per capita in total (%)	-1.8	16.9	9.6			

Note: Standard errors are in parentheses.

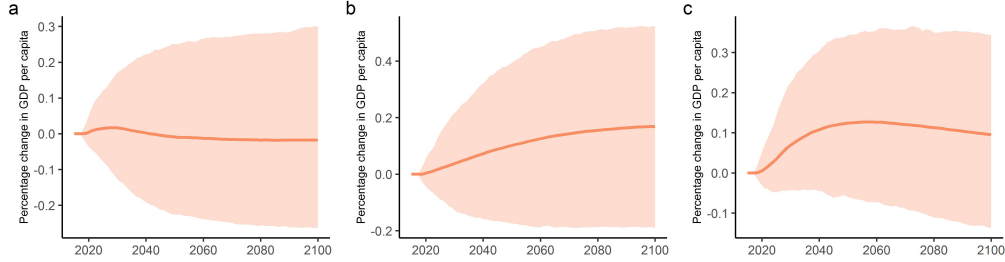


FIGURE 6. PROJECTED GDP PER CAPITA CHANGES DUE TO TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION MEDIUM-TERM EFFECTS

Note: Figure 6 shows the projected percentage changes in GDP per capita based on different statistical approaches under the SSP1-126 scenario. Panel A (left) is the projection weighted by the inverse of the number of subnational regions in a country. Panel B (medium) is the projection weighted by population in each region. Panel C (right) is the projection weighted by baseline GDP per capita of each region. The shadow areas represent the fifth to ninety-fifth percentile.

poor countries are hot, particularly those in Africa, thus they are expected to experience GDP per capita reductions due to rising temperatures. Although their GDP per capita could exceed global historical median value, the benefit from the precipitation is limited and short in time. India, in contrast, the reduction of its GDP per capita due to increased temperature is expected to be fully offset by increased precipitation.

V. Discussion and Conclusion

Quantitative estimates of climate change's impact on economic output are crucial for public policy, informing decisions about investments in both emissions reductions and in measures to help economies adapt to a changing climate. While existing literature has explored the relationship between climate and economic output, the findings have often been ambiguous. Previous studies have also encountered some methodological challenges. This study consolidates the approaches used in prior studies and provides new estimates about the effects of both temperature and precipitation on GDP per capita.

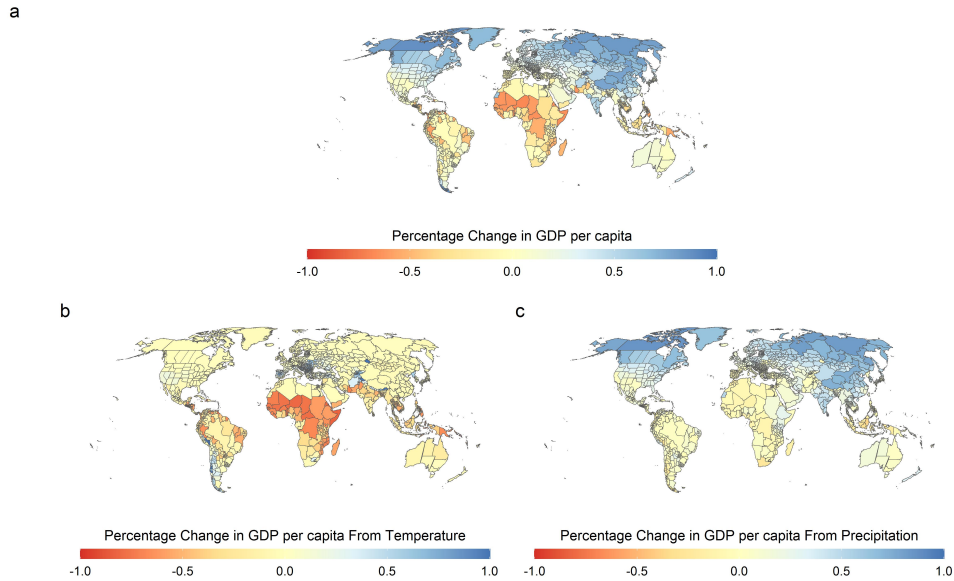


FIGURE 7. REGION-LEVEL PROJECTED GDP PER CAPITA CHANGES DUE TO TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION MEDIUM-TERM EFFECTS

Note: Figure 7 shows the region-level projected GDP per capita changes due to the temperature and precipitation medium-term effects. Panel A shows the projected results considering both the temperature and precipitation effects. Panel B shows the projected results considering the effect of temperature only. Panel C shows the projected results considering the effect of precipitation only.

Using a global sub-national database from over 1600 regions in 196 countries, we first conduct a fixed-effects panel regression on temperature, precipitation and GDP per capita. We find a significant effect of temperature on output growth. One degree increase in temperature is expected to reduce GDP per capita growth by 1.6% in hot regions. This contrasts with the findings of Kalkuhl and Wenz (2020), who used subnational data from 77 countries and reported no significant growth effect of temperature. The average temperature and GDP per capita (weighted by regions) for these 77 countries are 13.5°C and \$19639, while they are 18.6°C and \$14857 for 196 countries in our database. Therefore, Kalkuhl and Wenz (2020) results may underestimate the effect of temperature due to the lack of the data from hot and poor regions. In addition, while most studies find there is no effect of precipitation on output and just use it as control variable, we find a significant positive effect of precipitation on output growth for large population regions. This result supports the findings of Damania, Desbureaux and Zaveri (2020), who suggested that using aggregated data from larger spatial scales may mask the heterogeneous effects of weather, emphasizing the importance of using finer-scale data in climate economic studies.

To address time-invariant factors relevant to output growth, we developed an extended long-difference model by conducting a second difference for the standard long-difference model. The results based on this model show a significant effect of temperature on medium-term output growth in poor regions. The optimal temperature for poor regions is 19°C, which is higher than that revealed by panel models (15°C). In addition, the medium-term marginal effect of temperature is significantly higher than the short-term marginal effect at lower temperature levels. 1°C increase at 10°C increase short-term output growth by 0.69%, but this effect expands to 6.8% for medium-term output growth. This suggests that poor regions have developed adaptations to capitalize on increased precipitation. Although the negative medium-term marginal effect also expanded in hot regions, its statistical significance weakens. Regarding the effects of precipitation, 100 mm increase in precipitation at current rich regions' average precipitation increase annual GDP per capita growth by approximately 2.0%. This positive effect of precipitation is consistent under different precipitation levels, although the marginal effect of this effect decreases. We find no significant effects of temperature in rich regions or precipitation in poor regions.

Using climate change projection from 186 emulations, we project potential changes of GDP per capita by the century's end. If the global temperature increase 2.0°C in 2100, the global average GDP per capita is projected to increase by 9.6% compared to a scenario with no additional climate change from 2015 to 2017 onward. However, this increase is largely driven by the positive effect of increased precipitation in rich regions. If we only consider the effect of temperature on poor regions, the global average GDP per capita is projected to decline by 11.8-19.4%. Since rich countries are affected only positively by precipitation and poor countries only negatively by temperature, it is expected that rich countries get richer and poor countries get poorer in the future.

However, a caveat for this work needs to be made clear. due to the data limitation, we use three-year averages and two-period difference for the extended long-difference regressions. These estimates primarily capture medium-term adaptations to climate change over a six- to nine-year period. Since adaptation processes may require longer periods, further research with extended time series data is necessary to fully understand the long-term effects of climate change on economic output.

REFERENCE

- Albert, Christoph, Paula Bustos, and Jacopo Ponticelli.** 2021. "The effects of climate change on labor and capital reallocation." National Bureau of Economic Research.
- Auffhammer, Maximilian.** 2018. "Quantifying economic damages from climate change." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 32(4): 33–52.

- Burke, Marshall, and Kyle Emerick.** 2016. "Adaptation to climate change: Evidence from US agriculture." *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 8(3): 106–140.
- Burke, Marshall, Solomon M Hsiang, and Edward Miguel.** 2015. "Global non-linear effect of temperature on economic production." *Nature*, 527(7577): 235–239.
- Burke, Marshall, W Matthew Davis, and Noah S Diffenbaugh.** 2018. "Large potential reduction in economic damages under UN mitigation targets." *Nature*, 557(7706): 549–553.
- Cameron, A Colin, and Douglas L Miller.** 2015. "A practitioner's guide to cluster-robust inference." *Journal of human resources*, 50(2): 317–372.
- Damania, Richard, Sebastien Desbureaux, and Esha Zaveri.** 2020. "Does rainfall matter for economic growth? Evidence from global sub-national data (1990–2014)." *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, 102: 102335.
- Dell, Melissa, Benjamin F Jones, and Benjamin A Olken.** 2012. "Temperature shocks and economic growth: Evidence from the last half century." *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics*, 4(3): 66–95.
- Dong, Jinchi, Richard SJ Tol, and Jinnan Wang.** 2023. "The effects of weather conditions on economic growth: Evidence from global subnational economic output and income." *Available at SSRN 4728106*.
- Fankhauser, Samuel, and Richard SJ Tol.** 2005. "On climate change and economic growth." *Resource and Energy Economics*, 27(1): 1–17.
- Gennaioli, Nicola, Rafael La Porta, Florencio Lopez-de Silanes, and Andrei Shleifer.** 2013. "Human capital and regional development." *The Quarterly journal of economics*, 128(1): 105–164.
- Graff Zivin, Joshua, Solomon M Hsiang, and Matthew Neidell.** 2018. "Temperature and human capital in the short and long run." *Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists*, 5(1): 77–105.
- Hsiang, Solomon.** 2016. "Climate econometrics." *Annual Review of Resource Economics*, 8(1): 43–75.
- Hsiang, Solomon M, and Amir S Jina.** 2014. "The causal effect of environmental catastrophe on long-run economic growth: Evidence from 6,700 cyclones." National Bureau of Economic Research.
- Hsiang, Solomon M, and Daiju Narita.** 2012. "Adaptation to cyclone risk: Evidence from the global cross-section." *Climate Change Economics*, 3(02): 1250011.

- IPCC, Masson-Delmotte, V., P. Zhai, A. Pirani, S.L. Connors, C. Péan, S. Berger, N. Caud, Y. Chen, L. Goldfarb, M.I. Gomis, M. Huang, K. Leitzell, E. Lonnoy, J.B.R. Matthews, T.K. Maycock, T. Waterfield, O. Yelekçi, R. Yu, and B. Zhou, ed. 2021. *Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis*. Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA:Cambridge University Press.
- Kahn, Matthew E, Kamiar Mohaddes, Ryan NC Ng, M Hashem Pesaran, Mehdi Raissi, and Jui-Chung Yang. 2021. “Long-term macroeconomic effects of climate change: A cross-country analysis.” *Energy Economics*, 104: 105624.
- Kalkuhl, Matthias, and Leonie Wenz. 2020. “The impact of climate conditions on economic production. Evidence from a global panel of regions.” *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, 103: 102360.
- Kjellstrom, Tord, R Sari Kovats, Simon J Lloyd, Tom Holt, and Richard SJ Tol. 2009. “The direct impact of climate change on regional labor productivity.” *Archives of environmental & occupational health*, 64(4): 217–227.
- Kolstad, Charles D, and Frances C Moore. 2020. “Estimating the economic impacts of climate change using weather observations.” *Review of Environmental Economics and Policy*.
- Kotz, Maximilian, Anders Levermann, and Leonie Wenz. 2022. “The effect of rainfall changes on economic production.” *Nature*, 601(7892): 223–227.
- Kotz, Maximilian, Leonie Wenz, Annika Stechemesser, Matthias Kalkuhl, and Anders Levermann. 2021. “Day-to-day temperature variability reduces economic growth.” *Nature Climate Change*, 11(4): 319–325.
- Kummu, Matti, Maija Taka, and Joseph HA Guillaume. 2018. “Gridded global datasets for gross domestic product and Human Development Index over 1990–2015.” *Scientific data*, 5(1): 1–15.
- Letta, Marco, and Richard SJ Tol. 2019. “Weather, climate and total factor productivity.” *Environmental and Resource Economics*, 73(1): 283–305.
- Liu, Luling, Xin Cao, Shijie Li, and Na Jie. 2024. “A 31-year (1990–2020) global gridded population dataset generated by cluster analysis and statistical learning.” *Scientific Data*, 11(1): 124.
- Lyon, Bradfield, and Anthony G Barnston. 2005. “ENSO and the spatial extent of interannual precipitation extremes in tropical land areas.” *Journal of climate*, 18(23): 5095–5109.
- MacKinnon, James G, Morten Ørregaard Nielsen, and Matthew D Webb. 2023. “Cluster-robust inference: A guide to empirical practice.” *Journal of Econometrics*, 232(2): 272–299.

- Malpede, Maurizio, and Marco Percoco.** 2024. “The long-term economic effects of aridification.” *Ecological Economics*, 217: 108079.
- Mendelsohn, Robert, Ariel Dinar, and Larry Williams.** 2006. “The distributional impact of climate change on rich and poor countries.” *Environment and development economics*, 11(2): 159–178.
- Mendelsohn, Robert, William D. Nordhaus, and Daigee Shaw.** 1994. “The Impact of Global Warming on Agriculture: A Ricardian Analysis.” *The American Economic Review*, 84(4): 753–771.
- Moore, Frances C, and Delavane B Diaz.** 2015. “Temperature impacts on economic growth warrant stringent mitigation policy.” *Nature Climate Change*, 5(2): 127–131.
- Newell, Richard G, Brian C Prest, and Steven E Sexton.** 2021. “The GDP-temperature relationship: implications for climate change damages.” *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, 108: 102445.
- Nordhaus, William D.** 2006. “Geography and macroeconomics: New data and new findings.” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 103(10): 3510–3517.
- Song, Malin, Jianlin Wang, and Jiajia Zhao.** 2023. “Effects of rising and extreme temperatures on production factor efficiency: Evidence from China’s cities.” *International Journal of Production Economics*, 260: 108847.
- Tol, Richard SJ.** 2018. “The economic impacts of climate change.” *Review of environmental economics and policy*.
- Tol, Richard SJ.** 2019. “A social cost of carbon for (almost) every country.” *Energy Economics*, 83: 555–566.
- Tol, Richard SJ.** 2021. “The economic impact of weather and climate.”
- Tsigaris, Panagiotis, and Joel Wood.** 2019. “The potential impacts of climate change on capital in the 21st century.” *Ecological economics*, 162: 74–86.